

use, the composition and the size of groups which they feel are most efficacious. They make it clear that they are concerned with depth therapy in groups and not in superficial, supportive treatment. They are obviously enthusiastic about group psychotherapy and feel it has many benefits which individual therapy does not have. They cover the benefits and advantages very well.

In the following chapters they elaborate on what they have covered in the first chapter, that is the structure of groups, the process of group therapy, the differences between individual and group therapy, the techniques used, the use of alternate sessions with the leader absent, a highly controversial technique but one which they favor. In these chapters there is a great deal of repetition, with particular stress on the benefits of group therapy as the authors practice it. At times their assertions amount to a polemic against group therapists who do not agree with their methods and many pages are devoted to criticisms of analysts whom they regard as "too authoritarian" and unwilling to permit patients freedom of action and thought. There is throughout the book very little evidence given for their assertions. More clinical data from actual group sessions, in my opinion, would have carried more conviction of their theses than pages of criticism of those who, they assume, differ from them.

They give many advantages that groups consisting of heterogeneous patients have over those with homogeneous patients and inveigh against homogeneity in groups with great vigor. In line with this they strongly decry the tendency to conformity among Americans. In much of the book the tone is a polemical one rather than an objective, scientific one. They are strong advocates of psychoanalysis in groups as they describe it, of group therapy alone and not concomitant with individual therapy, of diversity as opposed to sameness in the composition of groups and the use of alternate group sessions without the therapist present.

This is not a primer in group psychotherapy, nor does it deal with groups in general or group dynamics in the broad sense. These subjects are touched upon and references from the literature on group dynamics are cited. The authors seem to feel that group dynamics should be de-emphasized as not playing a significant role in group psychotherapy. This book is not recommended for the general practitioner and would probably be of interest only to psychiatrists and particularly those with experience in and a predilection for group psychotherapy.

ROBERTA CRUTCHER, M.D.

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CLASSICS OF CARDIOLOGY (former title: *Cardiac Classics*)—A Collection of Classic Works on the Heart and Circulation with Comprehensive Biographic Accounts of the Authors—Frederick A. Willius, M.D., M.S. in Med., Former Chief, Section of Cardiology, Professor Emeritus of Medicine, The Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, The Graduate School, The University of Minnesota; and Thomas E. Keys, A.B., M.A., Librarian, The Mayo Clinic; Assistant Professor of History of Medicine, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, The Graduate School, The University of Minnesota. Dover Publications Inc., 180 Varick Street, New York 14, N. Y., 1961. 2 Volumes, \$2.00 each Volume. (Paperback Edition) Volume I, 399 pages; Volume II, 459 pages.

This is a collection of classic works on the heart and circulation, formerly published in hard cover under the title *Cardiac Classics*. It is a two-volume paperback for a very reasonable price, published by the Dover Publications Inc. of New York. These two volumes present fifty-two contributions by fifty-one masters of the past preceded by

short but comprehensive biographic accounts of the authors. The parent book of *Cardiac Classics* has been out of print for years and all students are indebted to the publishers for reprinting the book in this inexpensive edition.

The writings of those great men, who first made the clinical observations which led to the present practice of medicine, have excited all students of medicine and the current volume presents passages from the original writings of a whole host of old masters which will be of great interest to the physician of today. The reader will obtain great pleasure from reading the precise words by which Harvey described the circulation of the blood; Hales obtained the blood pressure in animals; Heberden described angina pectoris; Auenbrugger developed the importance of percussion of the chest; Withering accounted for his use of the fox glove; and many others. The clarity of the writing and the precision of thought of many of the men who made important discoveries is indeed impressive and will be a great stimulus to the student investigator of today.

Portraits of each of the great men are included and the biographies are extremely pertinent and present each man's work in perspective.

These two volumes can be most highly recommended to all students, physicians, and research workers as a compilation of the epic-making contributions of the great men that came before us. The original writings, translations, and frontispieces are extremely well done, and we concur with the authors that the rather complete reproduction of the works is of great value and permits the reader more fully to appreciate and understand the personality and philosophy of the authors.

MAURICE SOKOLOW, M.D.

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GYNECOLOGY—Langdon Parsons, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Boston University School of Medicine; Chief of Gynecology, Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals; and Sheldon C. Sommers, M.D., Pathologist, Scripps Memorial Hospital. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1962. 1250 pages, \$20.00.

Approximately 2400 years ago the son of an Athenian midwife departed from the traditional methods of education and taught his students by a process of systematic questioning. Since that time the Socratic method has been used by inspired teachers to stimulate their pupils. In this volume Dr. Parsons, a gynecologist, and Dr. Sommers, a pathologist, combine their lifelong experience in one of the Boston University teaching hospitals, and following in the footsteps of Socrates they depart from the traditional methods of textbook writing and instead ask a series of thought provoking questions, which they then in turn answer. This has produced a text which is a skillful blending of logic, scientific facts, statistical data and clinical observation. The authors also depart from tradition, by a unique sequence of presentation relating the gynecological disorders considered in the various periods of life. As Shakespeare has so aptly noted, "And one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages." The authors divide their book into seven parts, and in each part consider the gynecological problems peculiar to one of the seven decades of life. The ample section on gynecological problems in infancy and childhood is especially welcome, for the authors discuss many aspects of this important subject of pediatric gynecology, which is not usually considered in the ordinary textbook of gynecology, or at best only glossed over in a few words. Chapters on examination of the newborn female, and young female children, as well as chapters on congenital abnormalities, intersex problems and sexual precocity are of particular value. Also of merit is a lucid chapter on the